

**AGENDA:** September 2, 2003

**7.2**

**CATEGORY:** Unfinished Business

**DEPT.:** Public Works

**TITLE:** Caltrain Express Service—Advocating the Downtown Mountain View Station as a Stop ("Baby Bullet" Service)

**RECOMMENDATION**

1. Authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) expressing the City's continued interest in being a Caltrain Express Service ("Baby Bullet") stop.
2. Reaffirm the previously approved City Council resolution, expressing the City's interest in being a "Baby Bullet" stop, to forward to the JPB.

**FISCAL IMPACT**

There is no impact associated with approving the letter or the resolution.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

Caltrain will introduce Express Service ("Baby Bullet") in early spring 2004. The exact date will depend on completion of capital improvements, including new tracks and signals. The Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers (JPB) Board of Directors will determine which stations will become stops on the express service in late fall 2003 to early winter 2004. JPB staff is evaluating various combinations of service levels and station stops. They are reportedly aiming for two or three stations in each county, with San Jose and San Francisco as the termini. The total number of trains per day is unknown at this time, but the final number is expected to be significantly lower than originally thought, perhaps four round-trips.

JPB staff will likely make their recommendations to the Board in either September or October. Public hearings have tentatively been scheduled for October with three in Santa Clara County and three in San Mateo County. When the dates and locations are announced, City staff will notify Council.

A letter to the JPB and VTA Board of Directors expressing the City's interest was sent in October 2002, shown in Attachment 1. The response from the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) staff was encouraging (see Attachment 2). Peter Cipolla, VTA General Manager, wrote, "The reasons you listed for the Mountain View station's designation as a Caltrain stop are convincing and very successfully address the technical

criteria that Caltrain has developed for station selection." The VTA comprises one-third of the JPB Board of Directors and casts three of the nine votes on the Board. No official response was received from the Caltrain Board; however, JPB staff has been very encouraging when City staff discussed the topic with them.

A copy of the resolution Council adopted in October 2002 is shown in Attachment 3. The resolution explains the many reasons Mountain View is an ideal stop for the Baby Bullet, including:

- The Downtown Mountain View station and Transit Center is a true multimodal station offering VTA bus and light rail, commuter shuttle bus, bicycle and Caltrain services to commuters and recreational travelers alike.
- There is a new station building offering users a covered passenger waiting area, secure bicycle shelter, an ATM and a planned pushcart vendor offering drinks and sundries.
- There is a large 300-space parking lot with potential to double capacity via a parking deck.
- The station is one of the busiest stops along the Caltrain line.
- The station is conveniently located next to Mountain View's vibrant downtown and many transit-oriented business and residential developments.
- The station is located near several major roadways, including Route 85, U.S. 101, Central Expressway, El Camino Real and Evelyn Avenue.
- The City of Mountain View is home to many large employers, including Google, Microsoft, SGI, Alza, Intuit and Veritas, which are all readily accessible from the station via employer shuttles, buses, light rail and the nearby Stevens Creek Trail.

#### Further Actions

City staff will continue ongoing efforts to monitor the Baby Bullet process and meet with appropriate JPB and/or VTA staff members. When the JPB staff completes their analyses and issues their recommendation to the Board, a staff person could be invited to describe the results and respond to City Council questions and concerns. City staff will also attend the public hearings on the Express Service. At Council's direction, staff will send the City's written comments and responses on the draft plan to the Board. When the JPB plans to take action on the plan, the Mayor or a Council member can address the Caltrain Board.

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As Council may recall, the JPB staff informally approached City staff earlier this year about the possibility of an information office at Centennial Plaza in conjunction with the opening of the new Express Service. The office would provide transit information for Caltrain, AMTRAK and other rail services. Should Mountain View be selected as a Baby Bullet stop, staff can explore the feasibility of incorporating an information office in the train station building. JPB staff indicated they were interested in some interior space, but if it was not available, space elsewhere at the Plaza was acceptable.

**PUBLIC NOTICING**—Agenda posting.

Prepared by:

Approved by:

Joan Jenkins  
Transportation and Policy Manager

Cathy R. Lazarus  
Public Works Director

Kevin C. Duggan  
City Manager

JJ/9/CAM  
907-09-02-03M-E^

Attachments: 1. October 2002 City Letter  
2. November 2002 VTA Letter  
3. October 2002 City Resolution

cc: TPM, F/c

CITY OF MOUNTAIN VIEW  
RESOLUTION NO. 16742  
SERIES 2002

A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE CALTRAIN "BABY BULLET" EXPRESS  
SERVICE AND ENCOURAGE THE PENINSULA CORRIDOR JOINT POWERS  
BOARD TO INCLUDE THE DOWNTOWN MOUNTAIN VIEW TRANSIT CENTER AS  
ONE OF THE SANTA CLARA COUNTY STOPS

WHEREAS the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center is one of the busiest  
stations on the Caltrain line; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center is a true multi-modal  
transit station, offering employer shuttle bus, bus, bicycle, light rail and heavy rail  
services to commuters and recreational travelers alike; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center includes a new station  
building offering riders amenities such as a covered passenger waiting area, secure  
bike storage, an ATM machine and pushcart vendors offering drinks and sundries; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center has a large 300-space  
parking lot with potential to double capacity; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Transit Center is conveniently located next to  
Mountain View's vibrant downtown and many transit-oriented business and residential  
developments; and

WHEREAS, the Downtown Mountain View Transit Center is located near several  
major roadways including: Route 85, U.S. 101, El Camino Real, Evelyn Avenue and  
Central Expressway; and

WHEREAS, the City of Mountain View is home to many large employers  
including Alza, Intuit, SGI and Veritas, which are readily accessible from the  
Downtown Mountain View Transit Center via the Stevens Creek Trail, employer  
shuttles and light rail service;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Mountain View:

1. Supports the Caltrain "Baby Bullet" Express service and encourages the  
Peninsula Corridor Joint Powers Board (JPB) to include the Downtown Mountain View  
Transit Center as one of the stops in Santa Clara County.
2. Authorizes the Mayor to send a letter to the Board of Directors of the JPB and  
the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) supporting the "Baby Bullet"  
Express train service and encouraging the JPB to include the Downtown Mountain  
View Transit Center as one of the Santa Clara County stops.
3. Authorizes the City Manager or designee to work with JPB and VTA staff on  
this issue.

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The foregoing Resolution was regularly introduced and adopted at a Special Meeting of the City Council of the City of Mountain View, duly held on the 8th day of October, 2002, by the following vote:

AYES: Councilmembers Kasperzak, Pear, Stasek, Zoglin and Mayor Lieber

NOES: None

ABSENT: Councilmember Faravelli

NOT VOTING: None

ATTEST: APPROVED:

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ANGELITA M. SALVADOR  
CITY CLERK

\_\_\_\_\_  
SALLY J. LIEBER  
MAYOR

I do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution was passed and adopted by the City Council of the City of Mountain View at a Special Meeting held on the 8th day of October, 2002 by the foregoing vote.

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk  
City of Mountain View

PS/9/RESO  
904-10-08-02R-E^